NEODRIESSENIA MEMBRANIFOLIA (Li) C. HANSEN, comb. nov. (MELASTOMATACEÆ)

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ABSTRACT: The transference of *Blastus membranifolius* Li to the genus *Neodriessenia* Nayar is justified. Vegetative and floral parts of the species are illustrated. A map of the distribution of *Neodriessenia* is given.

RÉSUMÉ : Le transfert de *Blastus membranifolius* Li au genre *Neodriessenia* Nayar est justifié. Des éléments végétaux et floraux sont figurés. L'aire du *Neodriessenia* est présentée.

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When describing *Blastus membranifolius*, LI overlooked that its flowers are 3-merous and have two whorls of stamens, which are unequal in size and dimorphic, both kinds with a small dorsal and a large ventral appendage. By these characters it differs markedly from *Blastus*, which has 4-merous flowers with one whorl of equal, isomorphic and usually inappendaged stamens. In addition the species differs from *Blactus* by its minute hyaline glands and by its stalked placentas. *Blastus* has peltate glands and sessile placentas.

One genus presents similar characters as *B. membranifolius*. It is the Bornean *Neodriessenia*. Even though the minute hyaline glands of *B. membranifolius* are not truly like the glands in *Neodriessenia*, they are of the same nature. The glands in *Neodriessenia* are 4-lobed (4-celled) and fixed by a very short central stalk. The glands in *B. membranifolius* are narrowly oblong and fixed by a short stalk, which bends so that they lie along the leaf surface. The oblong gland is seen to be divided lengthwise into probably only two cells when studied by low magnification.

The dorsal appendage of the smaller stamens in *Blastus membranifolius* is a small spur, the ventral appendage is a thick, wide and callous lobe. The appendage of the larger stamens is like a horseshoe clasping the filament (Pl. 1). The appendages as described here resemble the appendages of the stamens found in the genus *Neodriessenia* except that in this genus the ventral appendage of the large stamens is only split distally. As in *Neodriessenia* the connective of the larger stamens of *B. membranifolius* is slightly produced below the anther sacs and the placentas protrude into the ovary cells on stalks, which, however, are less slender.

The agreement in characters between *B. membranifolius* and *Neodriessenia* is so obvious that I hereby transfer it to that genus in the new combination *Neodriessenia membranifolia* (Li) C. Hansen.

The genus was treated by NAYAR, 1974. His generic description should be emended to include also 3-merous flowers and the minute glands described above.

The area of *Neodriessenia*, so far endemic to Borneo, is extended to include also the locality of *N. membranifolia* in N. Vietnam (fig. 2). Only the type is known. The label gives no information on habitat or altitude. The specimen is both in bud, flower and fruit. It was collected between 18 May and 5 July.

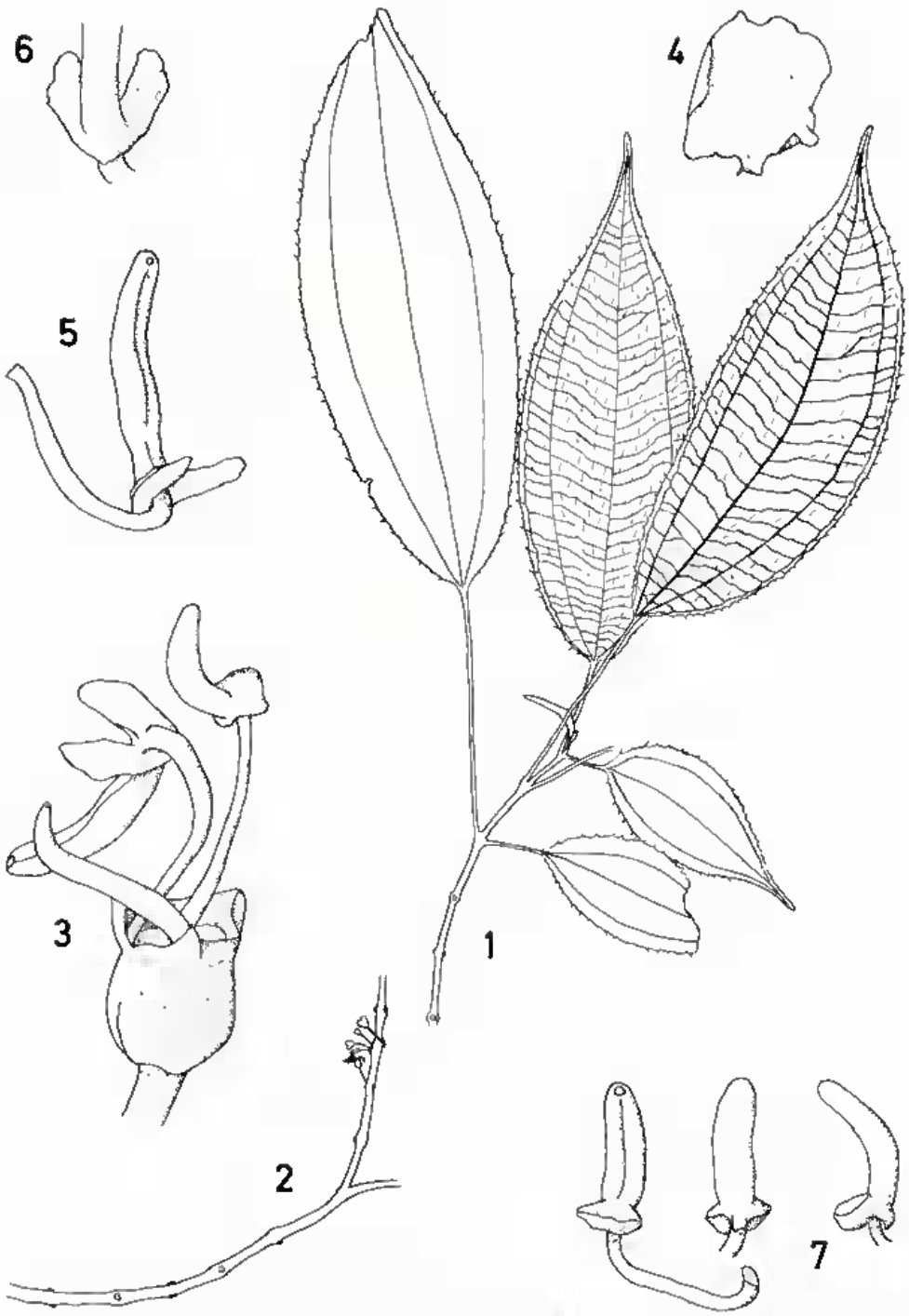
An emended description of *N. membranifolia* is given below.

Neodriessenia membranifolia (Li) C. Hansen, *comb. nov.*

— *Blastus membranifolius* Li, J. Arnold Arbor. 26: 120 (1945).

TYPE: *Tsang 30112*, Indo-China, Tonkin, Dam-ha, Sai Wong Mo Shan, Lung Wan Village (holo-, A; iso-, C, K, L, P, UPS).

Branched shrub, no record of height. Branchlets flat and densely covered with small whitish glands when young, terete and glabrous when older. Leaves decussate, those of a pair unequal in size. Petiole with an indumentum as branchlets; petiole of small leaves 1.5-2.2 cm long, petiole of large leaves 4.3-10 cm long, 2-4 times as long as the shorter. Leaf-blade ovate to elliptic, base obtuse, apex long acuminate, margin entire to indistinctly serrulate; blade of small leaves 6-7.4 cm long, 2.1-2.7 cm wide, 2.7-2.9 times longer than wide; blade of large leaves 9.2-15.5 cm long, 3.5-5.3 cm wide, 2.6-2.9 times longer than wide; 3-nerved; with a thin indumentum of long thin whitish hairs on both surfaces and minute hyaline glands in addition beneath. Inflorescence an axillary few-flowered sessile fascicle with an indumentum of minute hyaline glands. Bracts minute. Pedicels filiform in flower, thicker in fruit, 3-6 mm long, longest in fruit. Flowers actinomorphic, 3-merous, bisexual. Hypanthium urceolate, slightly triangular in cross section, thin-walled, about 2 mm long and 1.3 mm wide, with a fairly dense indumentum of small hyaline glands. Sepals forming a low rim 0.5 mm high at lobes and 0.2 mm high at sinuses, lobes broadly triangular thick along middle with an indumentum as hypanthium, persistent in fruit. Petals irregular, about 2.5 mm long and wide. Stamens 6, dimorphic and unequal in size; filaments slightly flat, about 6 mm long, glabrous; anthers oblong in ventral view, curved dorsally in lateral view, yellow, sacs separate until pore, pore on ventral side of apex, at most half as wide as apex; small anthers about 1.7 mm long, connective distinct with a small spur dorsally and a large diverging callous lobe ventrally; large anthers about 2.8 mm long totally, connective distinct, produced for about 0.6 mm below sacs and ending in a horseshoe-shaped appendage clasping the filament. Ovary less than half as long as hypanthium, partially adnate to it for its whole length, apically with three large scales connate into a long tubular 3-lobed crown with a thin indumentum of small glands; anther pockets wide and shallow half as deep as ovary;



Pl. 1. — **Neodriessenia membranifolia** (Li) C. Hansen : **1**, distal part of branchlet × 0.5; **2**, older part of branchlet × 0.5; **3**, flower (petals and four stamens removed) × 10; **4**, petal × 10; **5**, episepalar stamen, appendage from above × 10; **7**, epipetalar stamen in ventral, dorsal and lateral view × 10. (*Tsang 30112*, 1-2 at UPS, 3-7 at C).

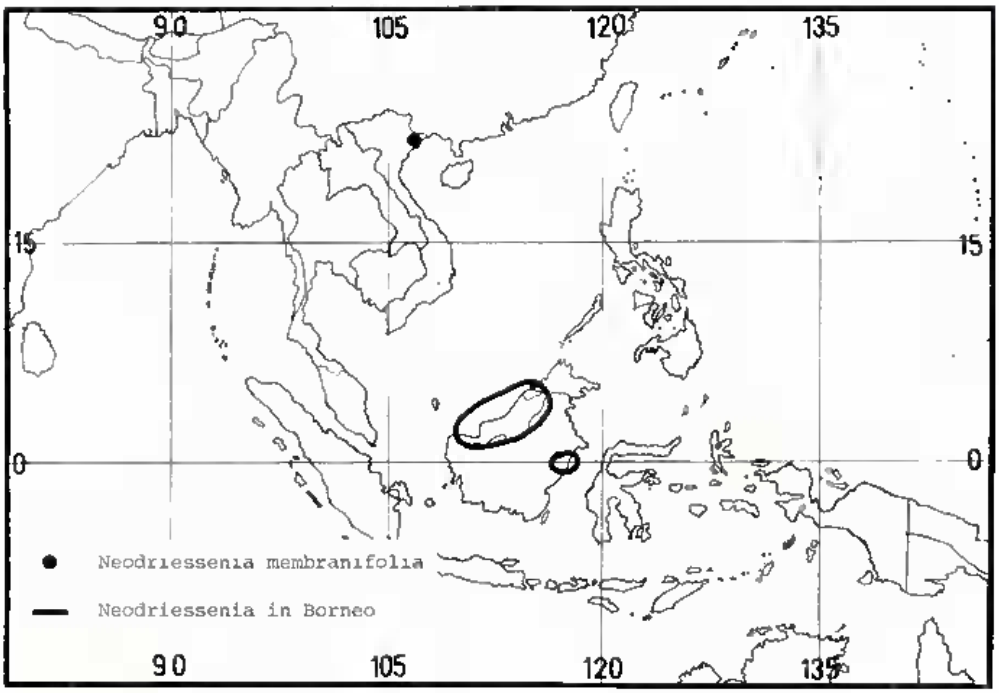


Fig. 2. — Total distribution of the genus **Neodriessenia** Nayar.

placentas protruded into ovary cells on thick soft stalks. Style slightly S-bent, about 3.3 mm long, tapering at apex, glabrous; stigma small. Fruit a loculicidal brown capsule with the excrescent crown on top breaking the upper part of the hypanthium, about 2.5 mm long and wide; placentas fall apart when the seeds fall.

Bibliography

Nayar, M. P., 1974. — Neodriessenia: a new genus of Melastomataceæ, *Bull. Bot. Surv. India* 16: 21-26.